

SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2015

The City Council held a meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., in the Tower Room at Festival Hall, 105 North 100 East, Cedar City, Utah.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Maile Wilson; Councilmembers: Ron Adams; John Black; Paul Cozzens; Don Marchant; Fred Rowley.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Rick Holman; City Attorney Paul Bittmenn; City Recorder, Renon Savage; HR Specialist Natasha Hirschi.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan Rodgerson, Marilyn Kidwell, Chris Barton, Marion Morgan, Holly Porter, Joelle Reber, Yvette Vansant, Lance Vansant, Harley Vansant, Bruce Gil, Diane Gil, Mariam Bowen, Janet Carver, John Bowen, Wayne Hall, Ron Curnutt, Bruce W. Barclay, Tim Cretsinger, Patrick Fletcher, Heather Rickman-Stein, Craig Orton, Matt Blair, Scott Jolley, Kerry Fein, Weston Smith, Liz Okeson, Bryan Komerek, Jessie Jones, Nancy Graf, John Graf, Martha L. Peterson, Brenda Jones, Claire Whipple, Joe Vaudenburg, Ben Draper, Chad Fain, LaShell LMurray, Bruce Burt, Paula Bees, Derek Morton, John Twones, Ranae Slack, Lynne Brown, Derek Bryan.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wilson brought the meeting to order.

Councilmember Rowley moved to go into an Executive Session; second by Councilmember Marchant; vote unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – CHARACTER, PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF AN INDIVIDUAL:

The open meeting resumed at 6:05 p.m.

CONSIDER A RESOLUTION OF PENDING PERSONNEL ISSUE: Mayor Wilson – we will allow for public comments, they will be timed at 1 minute each, state your name for the record if you address the Council and try not to repeat what has already been said. The council will not respond since it is a personnel matter, we will open the floor now for 15 minutes.

Derek Morton – it is bull S*** that we are here today. Mayor – let's be respectful and do not use profanity or name calling.

It is difficult for me to comprehend when someone is doing what you ask and have decreased the deficiency and increased revenue by \$177,000. When someone has worked hard it is difficult to imagine that we are here. Increased participation, challenges with growth, people are responding and wanting to participate. Someone involved in P&R someone doing their job that we are here.

Kerry Fain – I could be a catalyst, I never thought going into a meeting to discuss a bill with RAP Tax bills I would have to defend myself. I had to backtrack paper work to say I was not a liar and I am sure that was taken into account, it was a contradiction to my statements, but I had paperwork to back that up. Thank you for support us and doing what you do. It cannot be easy to make a decision. It is hard not knowing what was said in the other meeting. I am sorry you have been put in this position.

Lance Vansant, I a member of the community, the gentlemen in question has been a good friend only through business association, I am a mobile DJ and have done events such as the Aquatic Center opening, free fishing day at Lake at the Hills and several other things. He is amazing. I see him at events in town, he has his fingers on things, he recognizes my son when he comes to the Aquatic Center, he notices and talks with family, and is connected to the community in the short time he has been here. I watch him at Groovefest and other things in the park and he talks with people and has never been anything but a wonderful friend and member of the community.

Tim Cretsinger – I respect all of you and am happy you are in the position, but hard to deal with a situation, coming from the outside to me and others it looks like a witch hunt and I hope you all come out looking clean. Dan, when he first moved to town, sought me out to see what he could do to help, and he cares about what I do, his integrity is impeccable; he does what he says he will do and helps with events and appears at those events. It is amazing that anyone in a position of the city can be as present as he is. I appreciate what you all do.

Joe Vandenberg, Board of Directors of Ice Rink – thank you for what you have done for the Ice Rink. In any other company a lie is a huge thing. If you don't have the words to back it up you get fired, you have to run the City as a business.

Paula Bell – I have worked with Dan since he has been here, he is a breath of fresh air. With a lot of understanding on how things should operate I think he has done an exceptional job. He has a future and reputation, he needs to move forward and there has been bad press. The way this situation has played out is critical; I hate to see political benefit is not how things are played out. I hope things work out for everyone.

John Town – Dan is a great asset to the community, rubbing elbows with everyone at events and I have not seen that, I have been in the community for 20 years. I hate to lose that.

Heather Stein, a local business owner - he has been an enteric presence, he has gone above and beyond in reaching out to the community in embracing his job and I hope that does not weigh lightly on decisions that have been made.

Ron Curnutt, retired citizen – this is like a wake. I know that politics is a tough business and Dan is one of the hardest workers I have been around, he is here nights, weekends, holidays and emergencies. I hate to see my grandkids miss out on what he has improved upon. I hope you can all look in the mirror and say you made the right decision.

Bruce Burt – I don't know what was going on; I wish I did so I didn't feel like I do now. I have worked with Dan a lot and I don't think anyone has worked with him more and I have not seen a hardworking and professional person in all the things I have dealt with Dan. I have had some differences in opinions, but we have worked those things out and I learned to respect him. I am afraid to stand here and people say the reason we are not here. I don't know why I am afraid to tell the truth; Dan is a great guy and has done good for the City.

Event Vansant, like my husband said he is a DJ and that is how we met Dan. We throw events every year and Dan is always there to help out, he is at every event, he is wonderful and has a smile, I hope you make the right decision.

Christie Rodgeron – what you are doing here tonight is wrong and one day you will be held accountable, he gave his heart and soul to the City, I have no respect. You are losing a good man and you are making the wrong choice.

Patrick Fletcher – I challenge you to do the right thing, for you to make the right ethical decision. Dan holds high ethical standards; I hope you hold yourself to the high standards as well.

Liz Okeson , an employee of Leisure Services – I have worked with Dan since he has been here. I cannot say a bad thing about the man, politics are crazy and crazy things happen. In questioning his way of managing and running his department, he does a great job. I am there every day and I know what happens between those walls and you are making the wrong decision if you decide to fire him.

Derek Bryan – I worked with Dan for a few years at the Aquatic Center and it was a pleasure to work with him. He has a great standard and the employees look up to him a lot; he mentored me a lot when I worked there. Glad to be able to work with him and does a great job. I hope you listen to your community, I hope you make the right decision.

Bruce Burt – I will double dip, as a supervisor one of my biggest fears is that someone might accuse me of something I didn't do, it could happen at any time, any minute, I don't have a lot of fear anymore, but that is one of my biggest fears, make something up and say this guy did this, it has happened. As a supervisor the people I supervise will sometimes tell the people that I was mean to then so I have to ask them what time they came to work or when they left because I made them do their job. That is how I feel.

Janet Carver – I wasn't going to say anything, I don't know what is going on. When his name came up on Facebook, not a single person said anything negative, one was neutral. It is interesting that everyone came out to defend this guy; it says a lot of what he is. There are only a few people in disagreement, it speaks for who he is as a person, and there has been a misunderstanding. No one could tell me what was happened, so I feel I am in the dark. I just wanted to say something in his defense.

Amos John Voet, I am not even a resident, I live in Enoch. When I am here I was amazed. I have never been any place like Cedar City, a sign that says Festival City, something to do every day when the weather is good. I am getting ready to spend my third summer and I look forward to enjoying it. Last time I talked with a city Council it was in California and I asked them to do the ultimate rule of medicine "do no harm" you have something do, I hope you do right.

Kerry Fain – just so it is clear on our end, I have no idea what is going on other than a bill that was dealt with at City Council that dealt with concrete at the Aquatic Center. I worked with Dan for this, it may have been a miscommunication, but he said he had nothing to do with the bids. When he was asked if he had anything to do with it he asked if I was a liar, Phil Schmitd and Dallin Staheli and he said he wasn't doing either, but I do have an email and I have a paper trail. I have worked with him for 2 years, he has done amazing work, but I have to stand up for my honor and my program and not be called a liar. I don't know the entire situation, but I suppose that is part of it. I have documentation if anyone wants to see so you know what the elected officials have to deal with.

Mariam Morgan, P&R Board for 3 years, my family and I work on the Chili Dip and we volunteer as a family to do the Easter egg hunt and Halloween event. Dan is wonderful, we are happy with what Dan does. I am very disappointed with what you are doing with Dan. You represent us as the community and I think you should think about what has been going on in the community.

Councilmember Rowley moved to terminate Dan Rodgerson as a City Employee immediately; Second by Councilmember Cozzens;

There was public outcry from the audience.

Roll call as follows:

Ron Adams	-	AYE
John Black	-	AYE
Paul Cozzens	-	AYE
Don Marchant	-	AYE
Fred Rowley	-	AYE.

ADJOURN: Councilmember Rowley moved to adjourn at 6:38 p.m.; second by Councilmember Cozzens; vote unanimous.


Renon Savage, MMC
City Recorder